

The book ends, somehow abruptly, with the extensive chapter 5, which is followed by summaries in German, English and Dutch (chapter 6, pp. 291–300), then comes the reference list (chapter 7, pp. 301–308). The final chapter (chapter 8, pp. 309–408) contains a voluminous 127 pages long appendix including: list of radiocarbon dates, metric data / measurements, catalogue, profile drawings, and find photos in addition to some short specialist analyses including soil, sediment and pottery analyses by Friederike Bungenstock, Stephan Schwank, and Katrin Stuckmayer respectively.

Having read Moritz Mennenga's book, I really feel updated on the settlement pattern of the TRB West Group. It is an impressive, well-illustrated, and thorough work fully documented with 270 figures, 27 tables, and 41 plates. Based on the review presented above I am happy to recommend Moritz Mennenga's contribution to the Funnel Beaker West Group to anyone interested in the TRB. That said, I do miss a discussion on the wider implication of this study and its key findings. As the book appears in the series *Frühe Monumentalität und soziale Differenzierung*, I certainly would have wished for some considerations regarding the social organisation and potential signs of hierarchisation or lack thereof. In this respect, the book appears rather empirical, and it could have benefited from incorporating some wider social and cultural perspectives. In this context, one could have wished for a stand regarding how we should understand the suggested connections between the British Isles and the TRB West Group seen in the house plans. How do these findings fit our current understanding of the cultural connections between these regions? It would have been great to have the author's thoughts on such questions. The book is, however, a very important contribution to our understanding of the TRB West Group, its settlement pattern, its houses and its connections, not only to the North Group but also to the British Isles.

Even though the current book was published in 2017, five more volumes have already been added to this impressive list of good solid publications on the north German Neolithic that have come out of the *Frühe Monumentalität und soziale Differenzierung* research programme in Kiel, and I certainly hope for many more studies in the years to come.

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JOHANNES MÜLLER, Großsteingräber, Grabenwerke, Langhügel. Frühe Monumentalbauten Europas. Archäologie in Deutschland Sonderheft 11. Konrad Theiss Verlag, Darmstadt 2017. € 24.95. ISBN 978-3-8062-3463-3. 112 pages, 121 illustrations.

This book is a popular presentation and summary of the research project “Frühe Monumentalität und soziale Differenzierung” (“Early Monumentality and Social Differentiation”, <http://www.monument.ufg.uni-kiel.de/>), which started in 2009 and is now in its closing phase. The project, supported by the DFG (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – Schwerpunktprogramm 1400*), involved researchers from 22 universities and other research institutions working within 16 different sub-projects covering various aspects of Funnel Beaker (TRB) societies in northern Germany. The project was conceived as an interdisciplinary endeavour, studying not only the monuments themselves but also aspects such as environment, climate, subsistence economy, settlement patterns, burial practices, material culture patterns, etc. Several new excavations were carried out, but older material was studied as well. The results from the project, largely in the form of doctoral theses, have been published in a series of monographs, edited volumes, and conference proceedings and now number at least 13, in addition to numerous peer-reviewed papers.

This is thus an impressive project, which has produced a massive amount of new data and interpretations. The effort to summarise some of the main results in a condensed volume for the more general public is therefore very welcome.

The book is organised in short, thematic chapters. Initially, the larger European setting as well as methodological and chronological questions are discussed. Then, several chapters present different types of house constructions known from the Funnel Beaker area. The organisation of settlements and the relation between house and megalithic tomb are also discussed. Aspects of subsistence economy and cultural landscape are examined next. A substantial part is devoted to megalithic tombs and other kinds of burials, and the volume ends with sections dealing with enclosures and distributions of certain kinds of raw material, such as flint and amber, and finally a general discussion.

The book is generally well written and the text is easy to follow, at least for a reader with academic background. To the strengths of the book, we must count the illustrations, which are plentiful and usually clarify and back up the text very well. I will not repeat here the many different and intriguing new insights offered by this project but only highlight a number of issues covered by the book.

First, recent fieldwork, not only within this project but also in Scandinavia, allows us to sketch a much better picture of TRB houses and settlements today than just some ten years ago. While the long house seems to be the norm, different architectural subtypes have been discerned, partly with a regional and partly with chronological significance. Types such as Flögeln, Mossby, and Dagstorp were already known for some time but are now much better substantiated in northern Germany, where houses were previously little known. To this is now added the Büdelsdorf type, which is characterised, among other things, by its great length of at times more than 30 m, in comparison to the normal 10–20 m. Furthermore, indications of functional differences within the Flögeln type houses are suggested, dividing the space between living / working and ritual areas. In addition to these main buildings, a variety of smaller buildings / huts also seems to exist, similar to the Scandinavian situation.

For a long time, TRB settlements have been viewed as consisting of small dispersed hamlets, containing 1–2 long houses each, and corresponding perhaps to family or extended family groups. One significant outcome of this project is the identification of much larger settlement units, interpreted as a form of villages. Such larger units are suggested to have existed, for instance, at Büdelsdorf with up to 400 inhabitants and at Oldenburg-Dannau with 120–160 inhabitants. At the latter site, a surrounding fence was also excavated, supporting the size and unity of the settlement. So far, the large settlements are only identified from the Middle Neolithic (MN) TRB, suggesting a parallel development between settlement clustering, megalithic tomb building, and construction of enclosures.

It remains to be seen whether such large settlements can be found also in other areas of the northern TRB culture. Both in Denmark and south Sweden, sites with quite large numbers of houses are in fact known, but the difficulty has always been to date them precisely enough to determine how many were actually contemporary with each other. In any case, the large German settlements give occasion to rethink not only the settlement and landscape organisation of MN TRB culture but also the social organisation of these societies.

New insights into landscape use, cultivation, and husbandry are presented as well, resulting from a combination of pollen analysis, macrofossils, and osteology. In particular, the detailed pollen series from laminated pollen cores with yearly resolution deserve to be highlighted. These allow for very high resolution reconstructions of the vegetation and human impact but also of

climate changes. The emerging picture is that of an Early Neolithic phase with forest grazing and small scale cultivation, possibly shifting. Around 3700 BC, a more stable and intensive kind of agriculture is introduced, with arable use and manure, complemented by grazing on open pastures, in other words a more open, structured, and stable cultural landscape. Some regional variation is also suggested by isotope values in human collagen, although this kind of data is rather sparse from the German TRB region.

A substantial section of the book is devoted to monumental and non-monumental tombs and the burial practices associated with them. Unfortunately, north German soils are not very conducive to the preservation of bone, so in reality this largely comes down to discussing architectural building sequences, in itself a fascinating subject. Detailed investigations coupled with new ¹⁴C data have revealed complex and well dated building sequences for several sites, such as Flintbek and Rastorf LA6. At Rastorf, the sequence starts with a long house and a nearby ploughed field. Later, a small dolmen surrounded by a round barrow was placed on top of the long house. At a still later stage, the round mound was extended to a long mound containing a few non-megalithic graves. Intriguingly, the outline of the long mound follows closely the outline of the original house (p. 38). A similar sequence is also known from the Damsbo site in the Sarup region on Funen. This example illustrates several points: the complexity of Neolithic monument construction, the contemporaneity and interdependence of different “monument” types, and the dialectic between settlement / everyday life and ritual / mortuary practices. Indeed, the variability and contemporaneity of different monument types and mortuary practices is stressed in the book, which is a welcome change from the usual typo-chronological reasoning found in much archaeological literature.

The discussion of actual mortuary practices is hampered by the lack of preserved bones, as noted, and unfortunately largely rests on material from other regions. There are a couple of notable exceptions, however. At the Oldenburg-Dannau settlement, a flat inhumation grave of an elderly woman, c. 40–50 years old, was found. She was lying in supine position on her back. The dating puts her in the first phase of the settlement, c. 3350 BC (p. 28), and she is suggested to have been the founder of the settlement. Some 300 years later, the grave was disturbed and her left femur was removed. A left femur, probably belonging to this woman, was found in an intentionally refilled well on the edge of the settlement (p. 28 f. 38). This example illustrates well the importance of knowledge handed down over many generations in TRB society and also the complexities of how human remains of certain people were handled in ceremonies long after the initial burial.

The dialectic between the profane and the ritual is a recurrent theme in this book. This is also seen at the enclosed sites, i. e. the causewayed camps, in Scandinavian literature often called Sarup type sites. These monumental and still enigmatic sites usually contain extensive ditch and palisade systems and may enclose areas of several hectares. Within the project, two such sites have been analysed, Büdelsdorf and Dieksknöll. Büdelsdorf was actually one of the first TRB enclosures to be excavated but has until now not been well published, while Dieksknöll was excavated within the project.

Among the intriguing aspects of these sites, the evidence for refilling and recutting of the ditches are prominent. At Dieksknöll, at least 21 recuttings could be documented over a period of some 800 years. In the earlier phase, the ditches would have been recut every 2–3 generations, while the recuts later become more seldom, perhaps every 6–8 generations. The site thus seems to have been activated only at very special occasions with long intervening periods when it would only have lived on in traditions, stories, and memories passed on between generations, along with details on the proper ceremonies to perform at the site. The sequence at Büdelsdorf was somewhat different. Here, at least three different phases of ditches and palisades could be distinguished, each probably short-lived and separated by some 100 years. Between the last two ditch phases, the site

was occupied by a large settlement with c. 40 houses, as noted above. After the last ditch phase, the site appears to have been abandoned. The pattern at Búdelsdorf thus recalls the alternation between domestic and ritual activities seen at other sites, for instance the eponymous Sarup site in Denmark.

One reflection on these alternations of function may be allowed here. It is often stated that Neolithic societies made no clear distinction between the ritual and the profane, that these were integrated aspects of all activities. In the case of Búdelsdorf and similar sites, such a distinction in fact seems to appear very clearly: on the one hand enclosures and rituality, on the other hand settlements, houses, and limited rituality.

The final pages are devoted to the question of why Neolithic monuments were constructed. While no definite answer is proposed, it is suggested that monuments were one ideological answer to a need for stability in a changing world. Also, ethnoarchaeological examples are presented of monuments which are built as a means of achieving prestige and social standing in societies characterised by competitive and fluid relations.

In an appendix, a reading list is offered for those who wish to go deeper into the subject. The list covers not only publications from the project but also recent literature from a wider area and serves as a good starting point for orientation about North European Neolithic monumentality. The only drawback is the lack of in-text references.

In sum, this is a well-written and useful book for those who need an overview of recent research into the north European Neolithic societies and a good guide for further studies in the subject. We may only hope for an English translation to be forthcoming.

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ALBERT ZINK, Ötzi. 100 Seiten. Reclam Verlag, Stuttgart 2016. € 10,00. ISBN 978-3-15-020419-1. 100 Seiten mit 11 Abbildungen.

Die Reihe „100 Seiten“ richtet sich an ein breites, nicht-wissenschaftliches Publikum. Die im Vordergrund stehende Absicht der Verleger, Wissen unterhaltsam aufzubereiten, ist in der zugehörigen Werbebroschüre wie folgt beschrieben: „In seiner neuen Reihe bietet der Reclam Verlag Bände zu aktuellen und relevanten Themen aus Kultur und Geschichte, Naturwissenschaft und Gesellschaft. Die Autoren haben jeweils einen besonderen Bezug zu ihrem Thema und verstehen es, den Leser dafür zu begeistern. Sie setzen individuell Schwerpunkte, schreiben prägnant und meinungsstark. Abbildungen, Rankings und Infografiken lockern den Text auf. Mit ihrem taschentauglichen Format und einem Umfang von nur 100 Seiten bieten die Bände die ideale Lektüre für Zwischendurch: 100 Seiten für 100 Minuten“ (https://www.reclam.de/data/media/Reclam_100_Seiten_Infobroschuere.pdf, S. 1).

Das hier zu besprechende Buch „Ötzi. 100 Seiten“ ist einer von vielen Bänden der Reihe, die sich mit historischen und / oder archäologischen Themen befassen. Als Autor wurde ein Wissenschaftler gewonnen, der sich eingehend mit „Ötzis“ Körper beschäftigt hat: Albert Zink, bezeichnet als „Mumienforscher“ (Einbandtext hinten), ist Leiter des Instituts für Mumien an der Europäischen Akademie Bozen und hat eigene Untersuchungen am Mann aus dem Eis durchgeführt. Der für die Reihe wichtige „besondere Bezug“ der Autoren zu ihrem Thema ist damit gegeben – Zink lässt